

Meavy Rectory

Horshambridge

South Down, Eng.

July 31st 1884

My dear Sir,

My promise to send you a photograph of the Old Oak at Meavy was made so long ago, & has been for such a length of time unfulfilled, that I very much fear ~~you~~ ^{you} have thought it was quite forgotten. I have however delayed to get a man out to photograph it until he could at the same time take a view of the interior of the Church in which we were going to make some alterations and additions. These have now been effected and the photograph has at last been taken and so that I

I am now enabled to keep my promise by sending you the enclosed accompanying Copy. Please accept it, with all good wishes for yourself and Mrs Gray, as a slight memento of your visit to our little valley.

You will I am sure be pleased to hear that no change has taken place in the tree since you saw it, although it has in the interval been obliged to bear the brunt of some very violent storms - notably one on Jan. 27th in this year which laid prostrate making a younger tree & played great havoc with the roofs in the village. The old tree still bears his leafy honours aloft - in the spring showing signs of returning vitality before all the other oaks in the neighbourhood, and in the

autumn retaining its russet robe when all the other trees are almost bare.

I trust that if you ever have occasion to visit England again we may have an opportunity of seeing you again and renewing an acquaintance to us, so pleasantly begun.

My Wife joins me in kindest regards to you and Mrs Gray, and I am

Yours very truly
W. A. G. Gray
Rector of Meavy

To Dr. Asa Gray.

Harvard University
Cambridge, Mass.
U. S. A.